

# The Physician's BOOKSHELF



CALIFORNIA MEDICINE does not review all books sent to it by the publishers. A list of new books received is carried on page 22 of the Advertising Section.

**GREAT IDEAS IN THE HISTORY OF SURGERY**—Second Revised Edition—Leo M. Zimmerman, M.D., Professor and Chairman, Department of Surgery, Chicago Medical School; Attending Surgeon, Michael Reese Hospital; and Ilza Veith, M.A., Ph.D., Professor and Vice-Chairman, Department of the History of Health Sciences University of California, San Francisco Medical Center. Dover Publications, Inc., 180 Varick St., New York, N.Y. (10014), 1967. 587 pages, \$3.00 (Paperback).

True comprehension of medicine requires knowledge of the history of medicine. Not only will the student be enriched by this knowledge: His insight into day's medicine will be enhanced. The popular edition of *Great Ideas in the History of Surgery* is a welcome addition to the paperback library of medicine. The authors wisely included many quotations of some of the historically as well as clinically important documents. It becomes obvious how, centuries ago, medical men were nonetheless able to make and describe observations which cannot be improved upon to this day.

Perhaps more space should have been devoted to Vesalius because of his importance as a trailblazer in the science of medicine.

In the modern era, little or no mention is made of vascular surgery. Already at the time of the hardcover publication of this book in 1961, this field of surgery had gained considerable stature.

The text is well written and easy to read. The Dover Press is to be complimented for making it available at a price which is within the reach of every medical student. To the advanced student of medicine and surgery the book is recommended as well. Not only will it increase his basic understanding of surgery, it also may have a sobering effect to realize that successful plastic surgery was done in Italy in the sixteenth century, while technically beautiful rhinoplasties were performed in India some two hundred years ago!

LEO VAN DER REIS, M.D.

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**FOOT DISORDERS**—Medical and Surgical Management—Nicholas J. Giannestras, M.D., Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, University of Cincinnati, College of Medicine, Cincinnati, Ohio. Lea & Febiger, 600 S. Washington Square, Philadelphia, Pa. (19106), 1967. 521 pages, \$22.00.

Dr. Giannestras has brought together an impressive array of contributors to this work covering so many of the common problems an orthopedist sees in his day to day practice. The normal anatomy and biomechanics of the foot is clearly presented as a framework to which variations can be referred. The chapters on surgery of the rheumatoid foot, hallux valgus and neurological disorders are excellent and relatively complete. The recommended treatment for talipes equinovarus with adhesive strapping to a progressively angled bar will leave adherents to Dr.

Kites' tenets in dismay but ought to be presented as an alternative.

Treatment of the valgus foot, including the congenital rigid flat foot or vertical talus, is well worth reading as a report of an enthusiast for the conservative, active treatment of these conditions. Many orthopedists will feel too much emphasis is given to shoe correction as being truly corrective measures, but the proper use of heel and sole wedges and navicular and the "comma shaped pad" is a valuable adjunct to the symptomatic treatment of selected conditions. The Whitman footplate is appropriately recommended.

Many vexing problems are presented and solutions are recommended which the student or younger orthopedist will find invaluable. The book will not rank with Bunnell's *The Hand*, but comes as close as any so far produced and should be included in the library of anyone without already fixed ideas on the many time consuming problems related to the foot.

JEROME C. BEATIE, M.D.

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**GASEOUS DIGESTIVE CONDITIONS** — Including Belching, Bloating, "Wind" and Air Swallowing — What They Are, What Causes Them and How They Can Be Controlled — Joseph H. Pollock, M.D., F.I.C.S., Department of Surgery, Cedars of Lebanon Hospital, Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, Los Angeles, California. Charles C Thomas, Publisher, 301-327 East Lawrence Avenue, Springfield, Ill. (62703), 1967. 163 pages, \$7.00.

Although interestingly written, this small volume only continues to confuse an already confused subject. The author discusses some common symptoms seen in a multitude of disorders (from peptic ulcer to hemorrhoids) and then brings these disorders together under the heading of "Gaseous Digestive Conditions." In January 1967, the New York Academy of Sciences held a conference on the subject of gastrointestinal gas. The scientific approach presented by the discussants at that conference stands in marked contrast to what this book offers.

This book is written primarily for the layman. However, it contains many ideas based more on folklore than on scientific study. It is dubious if such concepts as food allergy as a cause of gas, coupled with instructions for setting up an elimination diet to treat this, should be widely disseminated to the laity. The last section of the book is designed for the physician but is little more than a brief description of the categories into which drugs used in the treatment of gastrointestinal disease fall plus a long list of these drugs. It would appear, therefore, that this book offers little of significant value to the physician.

PAUL H. GUTH, M.D.